

The Hong Kong Daily Press.

No. 8790

日三十二月正年二十號

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH, 1886.

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號六十二月二英

PRICES 5/- PER MONTH

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

February 25, CHIN-TUNG, Chinese steamer, 235, Winsor, Shanghai 21st February, Rice, C. M. S. N. Co.
February 25, OPAK, British steamer, 1,729, Jules, Shanghai 21st February, Rice, ARNOLD, KARRER & Co.
February 25, STATHAM, British steamer, 1,236, D. Broughton, Kutching 1st Feb., Coals—MISURI BUREAU KATSI.
February 25, GLENGARRY, British str., 1,956, A. Taylor, London 11th January, Ss. 26th, Penang 14th Feb., and Singapore 18th, General—JARDINE, MATTHESON & Co.
February 25, TAIKANG, British steamer, 1,506, T. S. Davies, Calcutta 7th February, and Singapore 17th, Opium and General—JARDINE, MATTHESON & Co.
February 25, LORNE, British steamer, 1,035, W. Hunter, Saigon via Hoihow 23rd February, Rice and Paddy—BUN HSU CHAN.
February 25, PRIM, British steamer, 1,402, S. H. Butler, Swatow 24th February, Ballast—BUTTERFIELD & SWINE.
February 25, PHOTOS, German steamer, 1,093, C. Sorenson, Saigon 19th February, Rice and Paddy—ED. SCHELLHASS & Co.
February 25, GERDA, German steamer, 340, C. Erichson, Whampi 25th February, General—WON LEE & Co.
CLEARANCES.
AT THE HARBOUR MASTER'S OFFICE.
25TH FEBRUARY.
Prion, British str., for Singapore.
Spinaway, British str., for Singapore.
Kong Beng, British str., for Swatow.
Lorna, British str., for Swatow.
Triumph, German str., for Singapore.
Loire Inferieure, French str., for Haiphong.
Pekai, British str., for Shanghai.
Annie W. Weston, Amer. bark, for Mantung.

DEPARTURES.

February 25, TAMSU, British str., for Swatow.
February 25, HAIKONG, British steamer, for Swatow.
February 25, PEKING, British str., for Shanghai.
February 25, PRIM, British str., for London.
February 25, LINNET, British g.t., for Shanghai.
February 25, PATRICIAN, British steamer, for London.
February 25, OPAK, British str., for Whampi.
February 25, CHINTUNG, Chinese steamer, for Whampi.
February 25, LITIS, German g.t., for Swatow.
PASSENGERS.
ARRIVED.

For Tung, str., from Calcutta, &c.—Mr. G. H. Wallace, Mr. and Mrs. Freeman, and Mr. Woodford.
For Prion, str., from Swatow, Mrs. Dunn and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. McMichael, Mr. and Mrs. McIver, Miss Norwood, Miss Maun, and Miss Ricketts, and 760 Chinese.
For Glengarry, str., from London—For Hongkong—Mrs. Howard, Master W. Howard, Miss T. Howard, Mrs. Sangster, Miss M. Sangster, and Master C. Sangster, from Penang and Singapore—150-Chinese, deck.

REPORTS.

The British steamer Glengarry reports having moderate monsoon to Penang; from Singapore to port strong monsoon, high sea and fine weather.

The British steamer Lorna reports from Saigon Hoihow the 23rd inst.—Had thick hazy weather and fresh breeze from 14th to 22nd whilst typhoon at Hoihow.

The British steamer Taitung reports left Calcutta on the 7th inst., and Singapore on the 17th. Had strong N.E. monsoon and high head sea from Singapore. Anchored at 11 p.m., 24th for Hongkong outside Ladrones.

The Chinese steamer Ching-tung reports left Shanghai on the 21st inst. Experienced heavy snow storm and high winds for 4 hours at Gatziaf; thence strong N.E. winds and cloudy weather to port. Pushed a junk boat up on the 24th at Capo Point.

The British steamer Opaek reports left Shanghai on the 21st inst., and had fresh N.E. wind and high head sea to Brak Point; thence to port light northwesterly winds and overcast. Passed the steamer on the 24th at 6 a.m., 20 miles South of the Lombok Rock Islands.

SHANGHAI SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

10. Ichang, British str., from Ningpo.

10. Yokohama Maru, Jap. str., from Japan.

10. Lothair, British bark, from Fremantle.

11. Kiang-tee, Chinaman, from Ningpo.

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12. Ichang, British str., from Japan.

12. Hsia-kin, Chinaman, from Ningpo.

12. Ours, French str., from Foochow.

12. Telemachus, British str., from Liverpool.

12. Shanghai, British str., from Ningpo.

12. Kung Wo, Chinese str., from Hantow.

12. Kwe Hsing, Chinese str., from a cruise.

13. Kiang-tee, Chinaman, from Ningpo.

13. Canton, British str., from Amoy.

14. Ichang, British str., from Ningpo.

14. John Potts, British bark, for Nagasaki.

14. Lido, British str., from Nagasaki.

14. Kuanmu Maru, Jap. br., from Kactzea.

14. Pao Hu, British str., from Hantow.

14. Kiang-foo, Chinaman, str., from Hantow.

14. Woching, British str., from Choofo.

15. Pekin, British str., from Kuking.

15. Canton, British str., from Amoy.

15. Kowloon, British str., from Hongkong.

15. Arlington, British str., from Whampi.

15. Amoy, British str., from Whampi.

15. Ulysses, British str., from Liverpool.

15. Glenarou, British str., from London.

15. Tetsuo, British bark, from New York.

DEPARTURES.

16. Pechili, British str., for Chinkiang.

16. Nanzing, British str., for Nagasaki.

16. Peking, British str., for Hongkong.

16. Loo-sung, British str., for Amoy.

16. Pekin, British str., for Foochow.

16. Taku, British str., for Foochow.

17. Tientsin, British str., for Swatow.

18. W. C. de Vries, British str., for Hantow.

18. Ichang, British str., for Ningpo.

18. Ichang, British str., for Ningpo.

18. Ichang, British str., for Foochow.

18. Ichang, British str., for Ningpo.

INSURANCES.

HANSEATIC FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF HAMBURG.
THE LUBECK FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Undersigned, Agents for the above Companies, are Prepared to ACCEPT RISKS at Current Rates.

Hongkong and Canton, 23rd February, 1886.

EDWARD SCHELDESS & Co., Agents.

NOTICE.

QUEEN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The Undersigned, Agents for the above Company, are prepared to ACCEPT RISKS on First-class GODOWNS at 3 per Cent. Net premium per Annum.

NORTON & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, 20th May, 1886. [16]

SUN FIRE OFFICE.

The Undersigned are prepared from this date to GRANT POLICIES against FIRE at the Reduced Tariff Rates to the extent of \$50,000 on First-class Risks.

ADAMSON, BELL & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, 18th February, 1886. [195]

THE PACIFIC MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA.

THE POLICIES of the Company impose no restriction upon Residence or Travel. LOWER RATES and BETTER TERMS offered than by any other Life Insurance Company represented in this Colony.

A. HINZ,

Agent for China and Japan.

Hongkong, 8th September, 1885. [163]

FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, OF 1877.

IN HAMBURG.

THE Undersigned, Agents of the above Company, are Prepared to ACCEPT RISKS at Current Rates.

PUSTAU & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, 18th January, 1885. [184]

GENERAL LIFE AND FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to GRANT POLICIES on MARINE RISKS to all parts of the World, at current rates.

PUSTAU & Co.,

Hongkong, 1st April, 1885. [668]

THE STRAITS INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to GRANT POLICIES on MARINE RISKS to all parts of the World, at current rates.

ARNHOLD, KABERG & Co.,

Hongkong, 5th November, 1883. [169]

NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

LIFE ASSURANCE ONLY. Purely mutual; all profits belong to Policyholders and appointments are made annually.

STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING

31st DECEMBER, 1884.

Assured Funds available £12,127,930

Surplus over all liabilities £2,036,332

Interest on funds available by the Government £8,246,945.

C. SETON LINDSAY,

Box, Manager.

Department of the East.

BIRLEY, DALRYMPLE & Co., Agents, Hongkong.

171

THE LONDON ASSURANCE.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER OF HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE THE FIRST, A.D. 1730.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to grant Policies following:

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

Policies at current rates payable either here, in London, or at the principal Ports of India, China, and Australia.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Policies issued for long or short periods at current rates.

LIFE DEPARTMENT.

Policies issued for sums not exceeding £5,000, at reduced rates.

HOLLIDAY, WISE & Co.,

Hongkong, 26th July, 1872. [10]

SINGAPORE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE—SINGAPORE.

We are prepared to GRANT POLICIES against FIRE on usual Terms at Current Rates to ALL CONTRIBUTORS of Business whether Shareholders or not entitled to Share in the Profits.

ADAMSON, BELL & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, July, 1885. [127]

NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Undersigned Agents of the above Company, are authorized to INSURE against FIRE at Current Rates.

GUINAN & Co.,

Hongkong, 1st January, 1884. [14]

CALEDONIAN FIRE AND LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1805.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to issue Policies of Insurance against FIRE on the usual Terms.

ARNHOLD, KABERG & Co.,

Hongkong, January, 1882. [927]

NORTH GERMAN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY AT HAMBURG.

THE Undersigned Agents for the above Company, are prepared to GRANT INSURANCE IN SUB-ASIA, at the extent of \$50,000, on first-class risks at current rates.

MELCHERS & Co.,

Hongkong, 27th March, 1876. [9]

PHOENIX FIRE OFFICE.

The Undersigned are now prepared to GRANT POLICIES of INSURANCE against FIRE at the following Rates:

On First-class European

Tenants, at 1/2 Net per Annum.

On First-class Godowns, &c.,

therein, at 1/2 Net per Annum.

On Godowns, at 1/2 Net per Annum.

On First-class Chinese

Tenants, at 2 1/2 Net per Annum.

On Second-class Chinese

Tenants, at 2 1/2 Net per Annum.

DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & Co., Agents for Phoenix Fire Office, Hongkong, 8th August, 1881. [13]

THE MAN ON INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE—HONGKONG.

CAPITAL (SUBSCRIBED), \$1,000,000.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

LAW, SIN, CHENG, ED.

BAN HUP, ED., YEH, CHONG PENG, ED., CHAN LI CHOY, ED., Q. HON CHUN, ED.

The Company GRANTS POLICIES on MARINE RISKS to all parts of the World, payable at all of its Agencies.

Contributory Dividends are payable to all Contributors of Business, whether they are Shareholders or not.

WOO LIN YUEN, Secretary.

HEAD OFFICE—No. 2 Queen's Road West, Hongkong, 14th March, 1881. [158]

FOR SALE.

CALIFORNIAN FLOUR.

The Finest FLOUR in the Market is S. & Co.'s well known, best roller made. "DRAGON EXTRA."

STRONG AND COLOUR UNPARSED TARIFF.

FOR SALE.

THE German Brig

"FROHLICH,"

or 360 Tons Register.

For Particulars apply to CAPTAIN on BOARD, or to

WIEHLER & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, 20th February, 1886. [411]

FOR SALE.

THE "P. F. F. F."

or 360 Tons Register.

For Particulars apply to CAPTAIN on BOARD, or to

WIEHLER & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, 20th February, 1886. [411]

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EXTRACT.

MEMOIRS OF FACES.
Of the gloom that surrounds us,
When the hearts are dimmed and low,
Comes to us Angel-like love,
Dreams of the bright long ago.
Even as a soft glow of sunlight
Shines thro' the clouds and the rain,
So-bright and cheering-there beauty
Glowe o'er our part once again;
Speaking in eloquence-only
Sorrows hearts beat know.
Ah, how this lingers in my heart,
Dreams of the sweet long ago!
Joined with our loves as small streamlets
Meet, and together flow,
Memory links us for ever,
With the dear past that is gone.
Still the sweet chords of their Music,
For though their voices may be,
With ev'ry glad sound around us,
Lingers in sweet memory.

JEPHON.

The life of jockey, though necessarily hard when a man has to battle with increasing weight, is all bear and strength in comparison to what it once was. Now would a world of sport expect a leading jockey nowadays to pull off his coat and strap a horse as to see him strap his saddle to his back and make the best of his way on a back to the next meeting. Fat women are to demand at \$40. Ada Brings, who is good looking and heavy as she is pretty, gets \$30. Dave Navarro, "fat boy," who by the by, was not a woman, made manager pay him \$125 a week. He died recently. Living skeletons get from \$40 to \$80. The Sprague training get the latter figure. Sprague is as delightfully ethereal that he can't stand without being propped up with straws. Armless men who do things with their toes are bribed not to run away for \$50 a week. The "loopy boy," a coloured youth who is turning white in spots, commands \$25 a week. Albino and minor curiosities that are used to fill in the bill receive \$16 and \$20 a week. Musical families—those families where the old gentleman plays the violin, the mother the piano and all the children some atrocious instrument—chiefly draw from \$50 to \$100 a week.

Freights due and sometimes they go out of business. Captain Costentenus, the original tattooed Greek, retired upon a fortune, and is now living in a fine estate in Greece, and has become blind. Dudley Forster, "Bop-o-My-Thumb," a very little fellow, made enough in two years to buy his father a nice farm.

SOCIAL PECULIARITIES OF THE SHAH OF PERSIA.

The Shah, or rather the Shahinshah (Shah of Shahs) of Persia, Nasr-ed-Din, has just completed the 36th year of his age, so he is 54 and a third of our years old. His position is neither better nor worse than that of other Persian princes; he learned to read and write, to pray, and to ride and shoot. He was a bright and intelligent child, but there was in his surroundings nothing to stimulate his efforts or to excite his ambition. He was still a child when he was taught to consider himself a being specially created to be ruler over millions of subjects, and already when a boy of 12 he was Governor-General of the provinces of Azerbadjan, and had more power over life and property than most European Kings and Emperors. At 16 years of age he was a father, and at 17 he ascended the throne. Considering how he passed his youth, it is a master of astonishment that he should have turned out so well. His rule, so far, has been a mild one, and regarding the few vices of barbarity or cruelty recorded against him, we must make due allowance on account of the religion and customs of his subjects. He was, when young, somewhat hot-tempered, but is now patient and forbearing. He has always been kind-hearted, sometimes to excess. He is a great lover of animals, and often takes a fancy to a bird, or a cat, or a tiger, to an extent almost incredible. When his beloved cat, his companion on his travels, had brought forth a little kitten on his fur coat, and had to be left behind—the Shah was on a shooting excursion—many were the touching and sympathetic notes he wrote and sent off by special messengers with inquiries after the health of his pet. At present he has placed his affection on a little boy, the nephew of one of his wives. When the child is grumpy or not well, the Shah is in a bad humour, and some months ago, when the child was ill, the Shah was incapable of attending to the affairs of State; his joy was extreme when the little boy once more romped with him. The Shah is courageous and brave, a fine rider, an indomitable sportsman, and a dead shot. It must have been nervousness which made him shoot so badly in 1873, when out with the Emperor of Austria. His talents are neither those of a statesman nor of a soldier. He has the best of intentions, and often happened, during an engagement at Philadelphia, that on such an occasion he was short of money, and at a loss where to raise the wind for the accustomed breeze. In this dilemma, he started up the town in a speculative mood, determined to inspire himself in some way or other. Having reached the corner of Calow Hill and Eighth Streets, he perceived one of those enticing signs of golden balls. He turned the corner, and entered the fatal door, and addressed the man behind the counter thus: "My name is Cooke. This is my benefit night. The manager can't do without me. I am up for *Richard the Third*. I want something to eat. I have no money. Now, I propose to pledge my royal person for ten dollars, and you may lay me upon one of your chairs." The joke was, you see, upon the paymaster paid the ten dollars, and Cooke was laid up. The theatre that night was crowded, and at seven o'clock the manager came forward to apologize, stating that with the non-arrival of the audience the performance would commence with a farce. He had sent in different directions, but was unable to find Mr. Cooke in the city. He presumed that the tragedian would be forthcoming in the course of the next half hour. As the manager retired, he was told that a boy wished to see him in the green room. He found the boy, who presented a note written in cipher, "My dear Jones, I am pawned for ten dollars, and you must release me, or it will be impossible for Richard to be himself to-night." Yours, W. Cooke." The manager started immediately after the first star, and found him nicely sheltered, with a plate of biscuits and cheese. In the bottom of his coat was a piece of paper, name of No. 1,473, pawned for ten dollars." The amount was paid, a cab called, and Mr. Cooke and the manager returned to the theatre, where the former had just time to dress and commence. "Now, the winter of our discontent," &c. It is said that he never played Richard better or received more applause.—*Lots Wakalip Mati*, New Zealand.

FORTUNES IN DEFORMITY.

The first dime museum was started on the Bowery in New York in 1872. At first the museums multiplied slowly, but about three years ago they sprang up all over the country, and now all large cities have from one to three. It is a bigger thing to be a freak than to marry a rich widow. Freaks grow rich. The competition between museums has run up the price of curiosities until they draw more pay than's receiver in a railroad suit. A good freak makes more money with out opening his mouth than the most accomplished actor. Little Lucia Zarate, the Mexican Midget, who is undoubtedly the smallest human being ever exhibited, got \$2,500 for four weeks in this city and now wants \$300 a week. Jo-Jo, the drop-faced boy gets \$500 a week. The first season he exhibited he drew \$700, but curiosities, as a rule, draw larger salaries on their first tour. The Greely survivors were offered \$1,000 a week to show themselves, but the Government interfered. The "tutie boy," a midget little

darky, whose limbs are frightfully distorted, commands \$75 a week. The gawdman with the elastic skin, who thinks nothing of pulling the skin of the back of his neck over his face, and can make a necklace of his nose, got \$200 a week. Two negro girls who figure "what-in-it" are paid \$200 a week. Chang, the Chinese giant, won't show for less than \$350 a week; Colonel Goshen, who is almost as tall and runs a farm out in New Jersey, gets but \$50, but Mr. and Mrs. Bates, the well-known giants, are demand at \$500. The Count and Countess Magri (formerly Mrs. Tom Thumb) and the Count's brother, Baron Little Finger, get \$30 a week. Josephine Myrtle Corlett, the bewigged girl, gets \$450 a week. The Actress man and woman, who originally shined with Birman, get \$150. The "Modern Hercules," who loves to catch red-hot cannon balls, does about twenty minutes work a day and draws \$200 a week, but he is not properly built, although he is likely to be hit over the nose the ball and it hits him. But these are high-priced freaks. The second-class curiosities to worry along on from \$50 to \$150 a week. Fat women are to demand at \$40. Ada Brings, who is good looking and heavy as she is pretty, gets \$30. Dave Navarro, "fat boy," who by the by, was not a woman, made manager pay him \$125 a week. He died recently. Living skeletons get from \$40 to \$80. The Sprague training get the latter figure. Sprague is as delightfully ethereal that he can't stand without being propped up with straws. Armless men who do things with their toes are bribed not to run away for \$50 a week. The "loopy boy," a coloured youth who is turning white in spots, commands \$25 a week. Albino and minor curiosities that are used to fill in the bill receive \$16 and \$20 a week. Musical families—those families where the old gentleman plays the violin, the mother the piano and all the children some atrocious instrument—chiefly draw from \$50 to \$100 a week.

And waistcoats, turned up their shirt-sleeves to prepare for action. The first case contained four box-contractors, varying from eight to sixteen feet long. The keeper opened a small door in the end of the case, and then, sliding back the glass panel at the top, put his arm boldly in and ran his hand down the back of the nearest reptile, which moved from beneath his touch towards the open door. As the head of the snake passed the door he seized it with his right hand firmly round the neck, and drawing the body quickly off, caught it five feet or so lower down with his left hand, the other man taking the remainder and closing the little door. The reptile "squirmed" a good deal, as it objected to such handling; but was quickly deposited in the tub, the keeper retaining his hold of the head and two parts of the body. As the water touched the snake a perceptible quiver ran through it; for a few seconds it coiled and uncoiled itself, finally, dashing the water about, and then seemed to settle, drawn to pied enjoyment of the bath, struggling no longer, but allowing itself to be slowly moved about the tub. "Ticklish work, it seemed to me, and the keeper rather assented to that opinion. "You see one is apt to get careless; but so long as you are cautious it is simple enough. I remember well the first time I tried it; so far as I—*M.*—was concerned, the regular keeper was taken sick and died. The day for bathing the snakes came round, and no one could be found to do it. Two days went over, and then I thought I would have a try. I had been feeding them for a year or more, and was pretty well used to them. Well, we filled the tub, and I got through with the job all right, and was soon appointed head keeper of the snake-house. The went on; I fed and bathed the creatures regularly and got a little careless over it; and it happened that one day I did not look after my man to see that he fastened the little door properly after we had one in the bath. On this particular day, too, he forgot to bring the change of blankets with him, and I never noticed it until I had one of the smaller snakes in the bath. As soon as I did notice it I sent him post-haste to the house to fetch them. The one in the bath was only about 90 feet long; so when he had been in the water long enough I lifted him out, intending to put him into a spare case and wait my man's return. Just as I raised him I felt something round my right leg, and, looking down, found the little door was open and that a 14 ft. boa was out and had got a half-turn round my thigh. Of course he had to be stopped; so I led go of the body of the one I was holding, and by a fortunate shot grasped the other just below the head. The one in my left hand had coiled his body round my arm and, soothed by his bath, was quiet and comfortable; but the other was taking up all my spare time. He wriggled and twisted until I could scarce bear him, straining the coil round my thigh very tightly. He had also given a turn of his tail to my other leg, so that I could not move a step. However, there was nothing to prevent my calling out; and I did it, and never especially because the door of that case was open, and that there were three more inside. My man might be five minutes gone; and I had to keep it up as best I could. The worst of it was while the beast had got his tail tighter and nearer to my body, he would shoot his head away almost out of my grasp, turning and twisting without ceasing. My fingers ached, and my wrist felt like breaking; while the circulation in my leg nearly stopped. Presently the snake came over me that I did not mind much how it ended, and felt inclined to give up then and there. In fact, my fingers were relaxing, when I heard a step out side, and my man came in. A glances told him the state of affairs. He had the one off my arm and into the case; the twinkle of an eye, and then between us we got the other gentleman loose and bore him; and then—well, there were no more snakes bathed that day." The keeper looked meditatively at the reptile in the bath. "Fifteen minutes, sir!" said his assistant, breaking in upon his short reverie. The keeper rose and lifted the snake from the tub, the assistant taking the hinder half. The reptile seemed quite torpid, and when they laid him on his clean blanket allowed them to wrap him up and deposit him in the case, where, after a long look round, he withdrew his head under the folds; a slight rise and fall could be seen, as he firmly settled himself, and that all was motionless. —*St. James's Gazette*.

THE PAWNED ACTOR.

The celebrated American tragedian, Mr. Cooke, was always fond of a frolic on his benefit night, declaring he never took liberties with his friends at any other time. It once happened, during an engagement at Philadelphia, that on such an occasion he was short of money, and at a loss where to raise the wind for the accustomed breeze. In this dilemma, he started up the town in a speculative mood, determined to inspire himself in some way or other. Having reached the corner of Calow Hill and Eighth Streets, he perceived one of those enticing signs of golden balls. He turned the corner, and entered the fatal door, and addressed the man behind the counter thus: "My name is Cooke. This is my benefit night. The manager can't do without me. I am up for *Richard the Third*. I want something to eat. I have no money. Now, I propose to pledge my royal person for ten dollars, and you may lay me upon one of your chairs." The joke was, you see, upon the paymaster paid the ten dollars, and Cooke was laid up. The theatre that night was crowded, and at seven o'clock the manager came forward to apologize, stating that with the non-arrival of the audience the performance would commence with a farce. He had sent in different directions, but was unable to find Mr. Cooke in the city. He presumed that the tragedian would be forthcoming in the course of the next half hour. As the manager retired, he was told that a boy wished to see him in the green room. He found the boy, who presented a note written in cipher, "My dear Jones, I am pawned for ten dollars, and you must release me, or it will be impossible for Richard to be himself to-night." Yours, W. Cooke." The manager started immediately after the first star, and found him nicely sheltered, with a plate of biscuits and cheese. In the bottom of his coat was a piece of paper, name of No. 1,473, pawned for ten dollars." The amount was paid, a cab called, and Mr. Cooke and the manager returned to the theatre, where the former had just time to dress and commence. "Now, the winter of our discontent," &c. It is said that he never played Richard better or received more applause.—*Lots Wakalip Mati*, New Zealand.

Croesus is the latest candidate for favour in the race of illuminants, and Lucifer the name of apparatus devised for making use of it invented by Messrs. Lyde & Hamley. It is a vessel of cylindrical form, capable of holding twenty gallons, and is provided with a pump to draw water from a circle three feet in diameter, two tons in weight, and three feet across. The proportion of air and crocuses employed are four and one respectively. The Lucifer is employed at the Porth Bridge Works. It is rather singular that at the same time that we read of this new light we notice a paragraph in the *Illustrated News* that the same substance, crocuses, has been used at Portsmouth for producing heat; Colonel Sadler, of Mitchelborough, having invented an apparatus for generating steam for washing by its aid, will receive aid to be highly favourable.

A PERILOUS SNAKE ADVENTURE.

A little while since I was examining some makes in a certain collection, in which there were several fine specimens of the beautiful gold-and-black bon, and also of the black-and-white spotted bon. I found the keeper very intelligent and some little information I was able to give him led him to ask me whether I had ever seen the snake he had. A moderately large tub, half-filled with warm water, was placed upon the ground, and my attendant and another man, stripping off their coats

and waistcoats, turned up their shirt-sleeves to prepare for action. The first case contained four box-contractors, varying from eight to sixteen feet long. The keeper opened a small door in the end of the case, and then, sliding back the glass panel at the top, put his arm boldly in and ran his hand down the back of the nearest reptile, which moved from beneath his touch towards the open door. As the head of the snake passed the door he seized it with his right hand firmly round the neck, and drawing the body quickly off, caught it five feet or so lower down with his left hand, the other man taking the remainder and closing the little door. The reptile "squirmed" a good deal, as it objected to such handling; but was quickly deposited in the tub, the keeper retaining his hold of the head and two parts of the body. As the water touched the snake a perceptible quiver ran through it; for a few seconds it coiled and uncoiled itself, finally, dashing the water about, and then seemed to settle, drawn to pied enjoyment of the bath, struggling no longer, but allowing itself to be slowly moved about the tub. "Ticklish work, it seemed to me, and the keeper rather assented to that opinion. "You see one is apt to get careless; but so long as you are cautious it is simple enough. I remember well the first time I tried it; so far as I—*M.*—was concerned, the regular keeper was taken sick and died. The day for bathing the snakes came round, and no one could be found to do it. Two days went over, and then I thought I would have a try. I had been feeding them for a year or more, and was pretty well used to them. Well, we filled the tub, and I got through with the job all right, and was soon appointed head keeper of the snake-house. The went on; I fed and bathed the creatures regularly and got a little careless over it; and it happened that one day I did not look after my man to see that he fastened the little door properly after we had one in the bath. On this particular day, too, he forgot to bring the change of blankets with him, and I never noticed it until I had one of the smaller snakes in the bath. As soon as I did notice it I sent him post-haste to the house to fetch them. The one in the bath was only about 90 feet long; so when he had been in the water long enough I lifted him out, intending to put him into a spare case and wait my man's return. Just as I raised him I felt something round my right leg, and, looking down, found the little door was open and that a 14 ft. boa was out and had got a half-turn round my thigh. Of course he had to be stopped; so I led go of the body of the one I was holding, and by a fortunate shot grasped the other just below the head. The one in my left hand had coiled his body round my arm and, soothed by his bath, was quiet and comfortable; but the other was taking up all my spare time. He wriggled and twisted until I could scarce bear him, straining the coil round my thigh very tightly. He had also given a turn of his tail to my other leg, so that I could not move a step. However, there was nothing to prevent my calling out; and I did it, and never especially because the door of that case was open, and that there were three more inside. My man might be five minutes gone; and I had to keep it up as best I could. The worst of it was while the beast had got his tail tighter and nearer to my body, he would shoot his head away almost out of my grasp, turning and twisting without ceasing. My fingers ached, and my wrist felt like breaking; while the circulation in my leg nearly stopped. Presently the snake came over me that I did not mind much how it ended, and felt inclined to give up then and there. In fact, my fingers were relaxing, when I heard a step out side, and my man came in. A glances told him the state of affairs. He had the one off my arm and into the case; the twinkle of an eye, and then between us we got the other gentleman loose and bore him; and then—well, there were no more snakes bathed that day." The keeper looked meditatively at the reptile in the bath. "Fifteen minutes, sir!" said his assistant, breaking in upon his short reverie. The keeper rose and lifted the snake from the tub, the assistant taking the hinder half. The reptile seemed quite torpid, and when they laid him on his clean blanket allowed them to wrap him up and deposit him in the case, where, after a long look round, he withdrew his head under the folds; a slight rise and fall could be seen, as he firmly settled himself, and that all was motionless. —*St. James's Gazette*.

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